Name of State	Families to be rehabilitated including major sons/daughter (December, 1994)
Madhya Pradesh	33014
Maharashtra	3113
Gujarat	4600
TOTAL	40727

Steep Price Rise of Essential Commodities

2131. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been the steep price rise of the essential commodities during the period June 1995 to June 1996 in comparison to the corresponding period of the previous two years in the country; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to check the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) A statement giving the percentage variation in the wholesale price index number in respect of selected commodities for the period June, 1995 to June, 1996 in comparison to the corresponding period of previous two years in the country is given in the statement (*see* below)

(b) With a view to keeping the prices of essential commodities under check, the Public Distribution System is being strengthened to provide Foodgrains at cheaper rates to the poor strata of the society. Besides, stringent actions are being taken against the speculators, hoarders and traders indulging in unfair trade practices. The esential commodities are also being supplies through Co-operative Stores, Mobile Stores, Kendriya Bhandars etc. at reasonable prices. Essential Commodities like pulses and edible oils are being imported in desired quantities to augment their supplies in the domestic market.

Statement

Percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indices of Selected Essential Commodities June, 1993—June, 1996.

	June, 94 June, 93	June, 95 June, 94	June, 96 June, 95
Rice	14.9	9.3	7.2
Wheat	11.8	—1.5	10.5
Gram	—8.1	9.5	9.6
Arhar	13.2	59.2	6.5
Potatoes	—5.7	82.0	28.6
Onions	13.9	—0.6	88.7
Tea	13.0	13.5	7.1
Sugar	23.6	—9.9	5.3
Salt	0.9	45.0	64.3
Vanaspati	6.8	11.4	—7.5
Musterd Oil	9.9	8.7	10.7
Groundnut Oil	24.5	21.2	—0.4
All Commodities	11.8	9.1	4.6

Import of Sugar by Pakistan

2132. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan had intended to import white crystal sugar from India in recent past;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether an agreement to this effect could not be signed between two countries at the last stage;

(d) whether it is also a fact that non-signing of such an agreement was due to sale of same quality of sugar by some other foreign country at much lower rate than agreed with India;

(e) whether such situation has affected Indian Sugar import deal;

(f) whether Government propose to take some steps in this regard to ensure materialisation of sugar import deal; and